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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries
First session
Geneva, 26 October 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Establishment of the work programme of the Standing Committee
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5. Other business
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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board states that: "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution." Moreover, rule 19 indicates that "the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended."

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above follows the format agreed to by the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 17 July 1992. As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Standing Committee will have available five working days from 26 to 30 October 1992. Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be available for up to two simultaneous meetings in the morning and afternoons. At the first meeting, on 26 October 1992, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the first session of the Standing Committee, as agreed in the consultations of the Secretary-General, will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Standing Committee

With a view to assisting the Standing Committee in establishing its work programme, the secretariat has prepared a note entitled "Issues for consideration in the establishment of the work programme" (TD/B/CN.4/2). The issues relate to national and international policies contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the terms of reference of the Committee adopted by the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its thirty-eighth session. Chapter IV of the Analytical Report by the UNCTAD secretariat to the Conference (TD/358) could also facilitate discussion on the work programme.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 14 of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee which states that "The Committee may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups."

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee

It is recalled that in paragraph 71 of the Cartagena Commitment, it was agreed that "The standing committees should be geared to assist the Board in the effective discharge of its functions. The work and agendas of the standing committees should be organized in such a way as to attract the attendance of senior policy officials in the respective sectors". Moreover, paragraph 75 states that "The Committees will meet as often as determined by the Board, and their meetings will be of five days' duration or less". A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee will be submitted for consideration in the light of the decisions of the Committee with respect to its work programme.

Item 5: Other business

In accordance with paragraph 84 of the Cartagena Commitment which provides that non-governmental actors, such as enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations, as well as other international bodies, could, depending on the issue, be invited to participate in an advisory capacity at public meetings of the the standing committees, the Committee should consider the participation of such non-governmental actors in the next (second) session of the Committee.

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee will be considered by the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, scheduled to be held from 15 to 26 March 1993.